

# TALIN

NEWS MAGAZINE

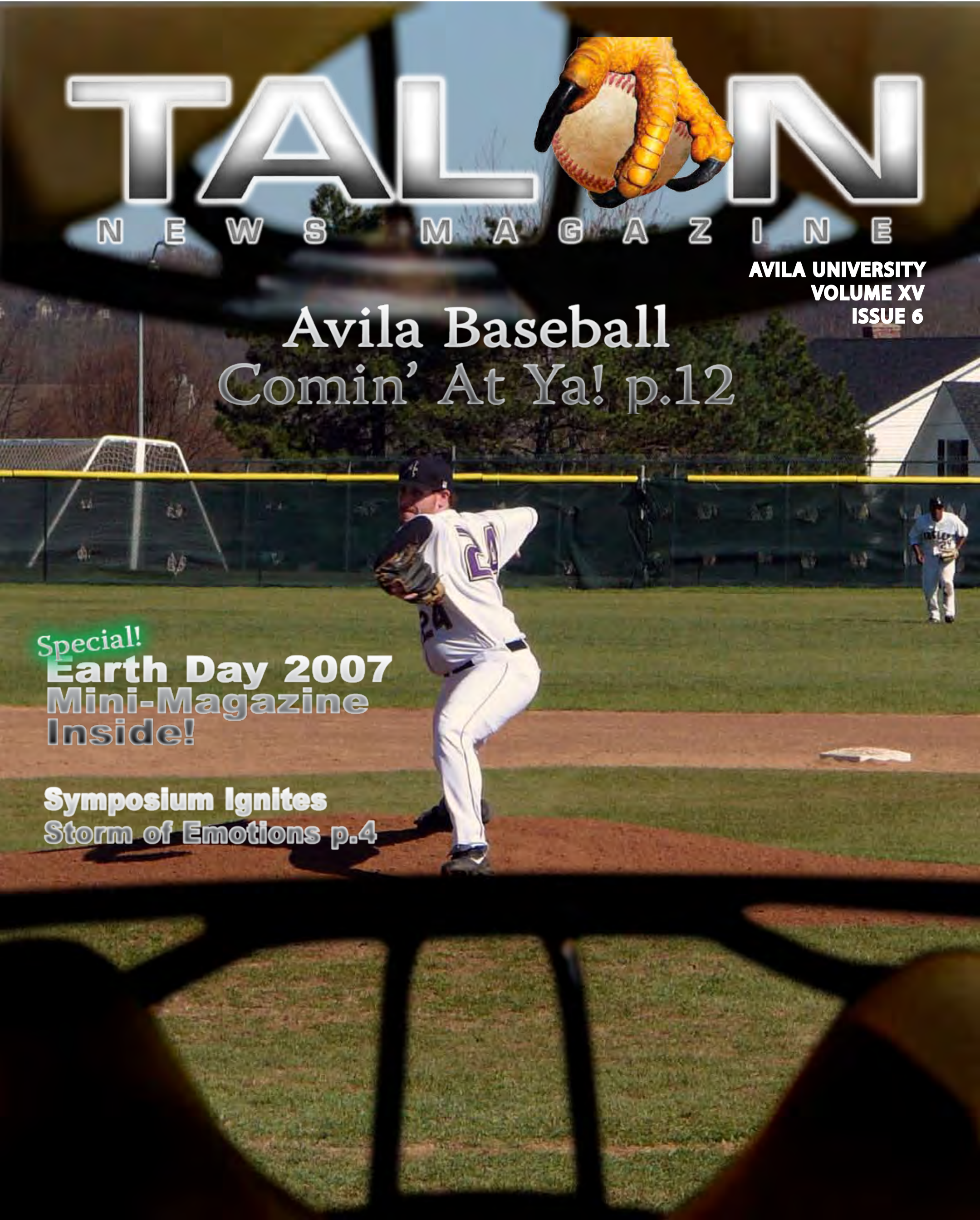


AVILA UNIVERSITY  
VOLUME XV  
ISSUE 6

## Avila Baseball Comin' At Ya! p.12

Special!  
**Earth Day 2007**  
Mini-Magazine  
Inside!

**Symposium Ignites**  
Storm of Emotions p.4





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# TALON

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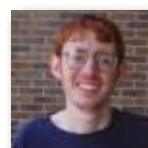
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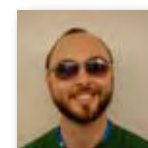
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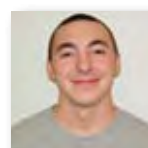
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## Folk Music with Danny Cox

By Jonathan Green

On Wednesday March 21st, many people had the opportunity to hear live folk music and eat free pizza. The Avila Concept, Design, and Production put on a free concert with folk musician Danny Cox as part of Harmony Month. Several people came to enjoy Cox's great music. According to Cox, he has enjoyed playing hundreds of concerts, but does not like to play at clubs and bars.

"I don't like the atmosphere in bars and clubs, so when things started heading into that direction, I get out of it." Cox enjoys playing most of his concerts in coffee shops and other laid back settings. Cox has many collections of songs,

responded with "I like to play all styles. I even write a lot of my songs in Spanish too."

While having a Folk and Latin sound to his music, Cox also likes adding humor to his lyrics. Multiple times during the concert the audience fell into laughter, especially during his particular song about current Vice President Dick Cheney. That was the first time he had played the song live. He also had other songs that seemed to get everyone going, including one about Iraq, and another about Kansas City. Although Cox is not originally from Kansas City, he said that he left his soul in Kansas City. "Tony Bennett says he left



Danny Cox takes the stage

some of which that were inspired by his children. "My children have inspired a lot of my music. I have ten kids; that's a whole CD, one song for each. I also delivered the last four children myself, in our house."

Danny Cox has been in the music business for 48 years. He has had the privilege to play with Leon Russell, Richie Havens, Ray Charles, and countless other legendary musicians. He is a singer and songwriter in the traditions of Folk, Blues, Jazz, and Gospel. When asked what style of music he preferred to play, Cox

his heart in San Francisco, I say I left my soul in Kansas City."

Apart from his music, Cox also mentioned that he enjoys acting, theater, and writing plays. He has written several plays, including one about the Kansas City Monarchs. His concert lasted approximately 45 minutes. Many people were able to speak with Cox after the performance. All in attendance seemed to enjoy the music, as well as the free food and drinks.

## Answers Regarding Avila's New Food Expansion

By Ben Kopp



The end of the year will usher in some important changes for Avila University in an effort to entice more students to live on campus. In a combined effort from Student Life, the Residence Hall Association, and Student Senate; a series of interviews was conducted with competing food service companies. Even until Spring Break, our current food service company was able to offer enough to keep Avila University interested.

A week and a half after the final March 14th interview, one of these changes was decided: Coronet will no longer be the food service provider for Avila University. While it was established that Coronet fulfills its obligation to the students, Assistant Director for Student Life Tim Bosler, stated that one of the competitors was able to provide

a "wider offering" than Coronet in the final interviews. This competitor, Avila University's new food service provider, is Great Western Food Services.

According to Mr. Bosler, Avila will receive a different program with a larger food rotation, more vegetarian options, and a cash equivalency to the current card system that allows residents to pay for off-campus students. Additionally, the new program allows students to use their meal plan to pay for Papa John's pizza, drinks, and side-items. As a matter of maintaining part of the status quo, students may rest assured that some aspects of the cafeteria such as the salad and deli bars will remain. In light of the new benefits for the students of Avila University, let us be ready to welcome Great Western to our community.

## **Avila and our Earth Need Your Help!**

Go to the brainstorming meeting  
on **Thursday, May 3rd at 12:30pm** in the  
**Alumni Lounge** to discuss a new  
campus recycling program! Remember: your thoughts  
and ideas make the world go 'round!





# Avila News

## SYMPOSIUM IGNITES STORM OF EMOTIONS

**O**n the last night of February 2007, approximately 300 Avila students and community members were ushered into Goppert Theatre by dime-sized hail and torrential rain.

But they would be rewarded for braving the weather. They were here to participate in the two hour and forty-five minute

Forgiveness & Reconciliation Symposium. They

would leave drenched in thought-provoking reflection about the value of human life. The Dead Man Walking Theatre Project swept attendees into an emotional evening with a range of presentations on forgiveness, death row, and peace.

The symposium began with an open-minded Interfaith Panel discussion where various representatives shared the Jewish, Hindu, Muslim and Christian perspective on forgiveness and reconciliation.

Although there were difficulties with the microphone either going off or getting suddenly loud during each presenter's speech, audience members heard the message loud and clear about the importance of forgiveness. Rabbi Vered Harris said that granting forgiveness and reconciliation tips the scales of balance for the whole world, for the better.

This thought was echoed by Arvind Khetia who added that Hindus believe there is divinity within every human being and that God says he will forgive your sins when you learn to forgive someone else.

Avila Librarian, Farruk Hassan, presented the Muslim perspective, shared by one-fifth of the world's population. She

said that God has 99 names and many are related to mercy and forgiveness. She added that "God forgives us easily and he expects us to forgive too." Avila Professor, Mary Hynes, Ph.D., shared multiple Bible scriptures that teach followers to turn the other cheek and not cast stones. She spoke about the Catholic Bishops' movement to join with organizations

trying to put a stop to capital punishment; in part because it is pure retribution and Jesus taught us to forgive.

Following the panel discussion, the audience watched a stirring video on Restorative Justice. It documented the journey of two family members requesting to meet with the convicted killer of their relative. The purpose of the mediation project is to give power back to the victims and help them find closure with their situation.

When the now-adult daughter of the murdered woman learned that her mother's last words to her killers were "I forgive you and God will too", the daughter said it gave her peace to know her mother had some peace in her last moments. At the end of mediation, the convicted killer shared with the mediator "I'm not going to make the mistake again of doing something my conscience says ain't right". You could tell the audience was moved, by the sounds of sniffing or crying as they watched 15 minutes of selected clips of the 8-hour mediation session.

When the video ended, the audience was asked to gather in the lobby to participate in an interactive art therapy exhibit. Many



Sister Helen Prejean, Author of *Dead Man Walking*

attendees pieced together mirror pieces, cellophane paper, and cut out newspaper headlines for a collage. They were encouraged to create something that represented their thoughts about death row and our criminal justice system at a visual dialogue table with art supplies.

Amber Davis, a graduate student in the

Art Therapy program helped coordinate the project. She said, "Our goal was to bring the community in to express their thoughts and feelings." Throughout intermission, hidden voices interspersed throughout the lobby sang melodic tunes.

A stirring portion of the program was the opportunity to hear first-hand what life on death row was like. Joe Amrine, an exonerated death row inmate, and his lawyer, Sean O'Brien, J.D., shared the story of Amrine's life in prison for 17 years, before he was found not guilty and released.

As one of nine inmates whose appeal was denied by the Supreme Court, he was told one inmate would be executed on the first Tuesday of each of the next nine months. At the end of eight months, only Amrine and one other person were not executed. While Amrine spoke, the storm outside grew intense and audience members could hear the thunder roll and the sound of hail beating wildly on the Goppert Theatre roof.

The dramatic weather played like a movie soundtrack to the discussion, as Amrine said that when people tell him he looks good, he wants to reply "this is a masquerade, if you could see on the inside, I have issues. I have lots of problems. But I wouldn't trade it, I love being here...I love being here." Amrine shared with the audience that when a convicted felon serves their sentenced time and is released, they are provided: Section 8 Housing, food stamps, therapy, medical aid, and counseling to help them get a job. But when Amrine was found not guilty of a crime he had already served 17 years for on death row, they just opened the gate and he walked out – no planning, no assistance, nothing. Recently, he was also denied his case for punitive damages.

The highlight of the symposium was a lecture by Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, "the death row nun". She said, "Granted, some people have done truly horrendous crimes

that outrage us. But then to take that outrage and say the only way to restore justice is to kill them; this behavior is killing the soul of this country."

She got involved with death row, because

she got involved with poor people, in her home state of Louisiana. The audience laughed as Sr. Helen joked that "if you would have given me a questionnaire when I became a nun, I wouldn't have said that I wanted to be a

death row nun. But if you Google 'death row nun' today, my name comes up...it's what every nun dreams of!"

Author of the book *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States*, Sr. Helen stressed to audience members that the Avila theatre production, *Dead Man Walking*, is the "closest they will actually get to an execution". She said it "brings people in and deepens the journey that we all have to take so that we can ultimately choose life." She said, "there are three ways in our culture that we can go deeper into our souls; one way is education, one is religion, and the other is the arts". Earlier that day, Sr. Helen met privately with the cast of Avila's *Dead Man Walking* production. Cast member Andy Perkins said she was "the funniest person I've ever met." Whitney B. said she is really easy to talk to and instantly becomes your friend. Joy Donze relayed that Sr. Helen said she is traveling around the country to support and see the college and high school productions of *Dead Man Walking* because theatre is the most intimate way a story can be told and she is really passionate about this message getting out.

As attendees left the Goppert Theatre, they noticed the weather had let up and the rain and hail had subsided, but they carried a new storm internally. They had been presented a wide range of information on forgiveness and reconciliation, and only one plea from Sr. Helen: "Put your hands to some kind of action, even if it's just to keep the discussion going."

**"The dramatic weather outside played like a movie soundtrack to the discussion...members could hear the thunder roll and the sound of hail beating wildly upon the Goppert Theatre roof."**



## Campus Ministry Will Extend a Helping Hand

Campus ministry will be going on their annual mission trip to Nazareth Farm in West Virginia this May. Dave and eight students will be making the trip this year which begins on May 19th and ends on May 26th.

For an entire week these students will be working with other schools and volunteers to serve the community and help the poor.

They will repair homes, do construction, tutor, and even be a caring presence for the elderly and isolated.

For a week the students are not allowed to use their cell phones, any type of musical or electronic device, or even wear makeup. The rationale for this is that it will force them to concentrate on their mission and develop a stronger relationship with God.

Their days will consist of getting up early to do chores or make breakfast, prayer, working in the surrounding community and joining together at the end of each day for prayer and dinner. There is also plenty of time for relaxation, individual prayer, and meditation.

The cornerstones of Nazareth Farm are community, simplicity, prayer, and service. These students have made a commitment to reach out to the people of Doddridge County in whatever ways their skills and hearts direct them.

They will be sharing meals, living space, laughter, and music. The simplicity comes from the surrounding nature, games, singing, and hiking, that replaces the usual blare of television and radio. Prayer will be a constant in their work, play, and gathering together. The students will be praying through scripture, Psalms, song, and sharing with others.

This week will be one of full commitment to God and the mission he has set for all of us. Dave and the students are eagerly awaiting this year's trip and looking forward to the many rewards they will receive with Jesus Christ.

**By  
Megan  
Carnes**

## Residence Life May Be Improving For Some

**By Dani Asher**

Residence life may be looking up for students at Avila, with the construction of the new Thompson Hall. There are many perks to living in this residence hall with its suite-style layout. Each suite will contain; four bedrooms with a living room area, kitchenette, two bathrooms...and alcohol drinking privileges for those over the age of 21.

Of course, such with any privilege, there will be limitations and responsibilities. Each resident of the suite must be of legal drinking age. There will be a short educational and informational program that must be completed. It is also possible to have these privileges taken away if they are abused. According to the Residence Life Office, many of the details are still sketchy regarding this program, as well as the new policies. If all goes well with this experimental living situation, the privilege may be expanded to other buildings at some point in the future.

You may question the reasoning behind this opportunity because it seems a little out of character for our Catholic University. The truth is that the change in leadership may have had a great deal to do with it. The University would like to keep the older students on campus and perhaps this is a step in the right direction.

As college students, you might think that everyone is in favor of this new change. That is not exactly the case. Teresa Diebal is an example of someone who does not agree with the new privilege.

"As an RA, it seems hypocritical to have drinking be allowed in only one building. She raised another good point with, "What if you choose to have a single room in Ridgway or Carondelet?" This could definitely cause some debate. Other students just feel that drinking is wrong, and allowing it in the dorms will just lead to more disturbances and loud noise.

On the other hand, students such as Chadd Rivera, James Timmons, Banen Chaney, and Amanda Murphy agree with the drinking on campus rule. According to Banen, "I might take a new look at living on campus. This may change my mind about Avila being drab and boring."

When asked if she would consider moving back on campus because of the new privilege, Amanda Murphy said, "This would not change my mind because I did not move off campus because I could not drink in the dorms. There are still strict rules for living in the dorms and I am not ready for an all-carbohydrate diet" (referring to the cafeteria food.) Ryan Vaughn had another take on living on campus, "It would not change my mind because it costs too much."

## Avila's Pre-Law Society Active Once Again!

It has been over two years since it has been viable. The purpose of the Avila Pre-Law Society is to develop and encourage accountability, leadership, competence, character, cooperative effort, merit and scholarship. It serves as a professional and social outlet for students interested in state, federal, international and common law; and to develop greater awareness of Avila University. All current students and alumni are welcome and encouraged to participate in the activities of this organization.

Although law schools might not look to see if a student has participated in a pre-law student organization when making admission decisions, the Avila Pre-Law Society provides an important function in terms of the collection and dissemination of valuable information regarding law school admission and careers in law. An added benefit of this organization is that it provides an opportunity for students with differing academic majors but the similar career goal of becoming lawyers or careers in law to interact.

The first order of business was electing a new Board. The Board consists of President, Josh Loden; Vice President, Stacy Franklin; Secretary, Tom Wolf; Treasurer, Charmene Woods; and Advisor, Andrea Olitsky, Esq.

The Pre-Law Society has a goal of bringing distinguished guest lecturers to Avila University. The first session was held on April 24th in the Student Lounge where students welcomed Robert Klonoff, incoming Dean of the Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland Oregon and a current UMKC Law Professor. This was a unique opportunity for students to speak directly with a distinguished professor who teaches both the introductory and advanced civil procedures courses. The lecture was open to all students. Any students interesting in joining the organization are asked to email Andrea Olitsky at [Andrea.Olitsky@avila.edu](mailto:Andrea.Olitsky@avila.edu).

## ELEVEN COMMUNICATIONS STUDENTS HONORED

The International Association of Business Communicators will honor eleven communication students at the Kansas City/IABC Bronze Quill Awards Gala early next month. The students entered individual and group projects that were completed in Linda Strelluf's Public Relations Concepts, Corporate Com. Seminar and Survey of Film II classes. Seven of the projects will receive awards.

A reception, dinner, and awards program will be held on May 4th at the Kansas City Public Library, located in downtown Kansas City at 14 West 10th Street.

Please congratulate the following students when you see them:

### INDIVIDUAL PROJECT AWARDS:

Kayle Walker and Chadd Rivera

### GROUP PROJECT AWARDS:

Michael Rollen, Lauren McCarthy, Katie Fieribrand; Kayle Walker, Dani Asher, Emily Hoskins; CheyAnn Volkman, Megan Carnes; Eudora Savage, and Brandon Boles.



## Avila Alum Returns Home

By Banen Chaney

On Thursday, April 19, Avila alum Sylvia Browne returned to her hometown of Kansas City on her Spiritual Connections tour.

Browne is a well-known psychic and spiritual teacher. She is a New York Times best-selling author. Browne can also be seen every Wednesday on the Montel Williams Show.

Browne was born in Kansas City and attended Avila University when it was still St. Teresa's College. Following

graduation, she taught at numerous local schools before moving on to pursue her career.

On the 19th, Browne gave readings, advice, and words of hope to a packed house at Municipal Auditorium downtown.

Browne continues to write and says she will do so for as long as she can.

For more information on Sylvia Browne, visit [Sylvia.org](http://Sylvia.org).

## I'll Have the Number 5 with a Side of Fat

By Monica Lang

As I looked out the tinted, translucent window on my way to the airport, I stared at the 28 hundred thousand people, who walked along the sidewalks, waiting for buses to pick them up, and I noticed one thing. With a grin on my face, I turned to my sister and said, "Everyone is skinny." Yes, obesity is rare, very rare in Lima, Peru compared to the United States of America.

On spring break, I visited a place far from Avila University, where my mother grew up and my relatives live, in Peru. Having been there numerous times, the smell of fresh seafood or burning trash rarely sings my nostrils in disgust. It is a new world; a third world country, where the poor suffer and the rich prosper in wealth. This is a totally remarkable atmosphere, where people are speaking English; people are darkly tan and resemble Indians. The traffic is unbearable.

The sound of horns honking obnoxiously is considered the norm. A complete transformation from our air conditioned Universities in the United States. Our mobile cars, and money to spare, create the most shocking comparison not in appearance or wealth, but in weight. It was not until traveling to Peru, that I realized obesity in the USA is an issue which needs more awareness.

After speaking with numerous local Peruvian teenagers over spring break visit, I always ran into the same issue. Everybody in the United States is obese. "Watch out when traveling to the US because he or she will come back a fat cow," they would taunt. In Peru, where food and agriculture is a popular delight, any tourist would realize there is a large distinction when comparing Peruvian cuisine to the American grill. In the USA, one can order a value meal at a local McDonald's and receive a medium drink, a medium order of fries, and a burger all for the very fine price of five dollars.

As I went to the "fast food" Peruvian restaurant in Peru, Bambos, I was faced with a unique change. I looked at my friends and said, "Wow, our medium sized drink is your "extra large drink [in Peru]." "Price wise" and "fat content wise" fast food is about the same. However, the variation lies in the agriculture.

Why are Peruvians not going crazy for the sodium ridden French fries, like Americans are, when they are clearly just as easily available in Peru? Why is fast food so easily consumed here, and not in Peru? The answer is simple. The standard of living is, of course, lower, but the logic is plausible. The United States of America lacks what I would like to call

(continued on next page)

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(continued from page 6)

“food rational.”

The USA is materialistic, money consumed, and weight obsessed, yet obesity is on the rise, rise, and rise. Why? According to Frances B Smith in Health News Magazine, American lifestyle trends that promote both parents to work “create time pressures that have dramatically increased the incidence of food prepared outside the home.” Clearly, for American citizens the simple answer is fast food presents itself as a convenience.

Where lies the irony behind the fact that a good, healthy meal available at any grocery store is generally more expensive than a fatty value meal, whereas in Peru, agriculture and fresh produce are available at a cheaper price than fattening products which undermines why everyone is skinny overseas.

If fresh vegetables or fresh products were cheaper in the USA, would the US citizens be more inclined to buy them, and in turn live healthier lifestyles? The weight

Here at Avila, are we promoting healthy lifestyles? Are we encouraging healthy meals for the dorm students? Or is our society just using whatever processed meat that is the cheapest to feed those mouths that are hungry, in order to “get the job done.” Who are the authorities saying yes, not a problem, just load up the food with sodium and cholesterol, and students will be fat, but not starving?

The USA is stuck in a rut, a rut so deep that has allowed unhealthy habits, ease-driven lifestyles to invade our common sense. Students must overcome this tasty, fattening grub of a temptation. “Even students who don’t eat in the cafeteria are susceptible to unhealthy weight gain, due to the economical and more appetizing choice of fast food,” according to an article entitled “Obesity on College Campus continues to rise rapidly,” by Charlie Washington.

It all is an accumulation of what most students try to avoid, obesity. For the love

## EASTER SPECTACULAR



By Brindy Lasiter



Despite cold weather, clear, blue skies kept things warm enough for the annual Easter Egg Hunt to be held outside this year. Students, parents, and children gathered around the fountain on the campus quad. “It’s really a blast for the kids,” said Campus Ministry Team leader Bernadette Weeks, a second year student.

Weeks was encouraged by the

attendance and relieved that the weather cooperated. After all the eggs had been found, and the baskets brimming with holiday bounty, everyone headed inside for refreshments and egg decorating. The annual event is one of several Avila hosts designed to build a stronger relationship with the community.



of our lazy habits is clearly exemplified, as a whole nation, on the scale. Nearly 4 out of 10 adults will be obese in 5 years as stated on the obesity health website by Anne Collins.

We are a power obsessed country, especially when it comes to money. We are the power house of freedom, which, to say the least, is a compliment; but when it comes to living healthy lifestyles our country really sucks. Our grandiose egos plummet to the very bottom of the hierarchy because we are, as a country, fat.

of food and culture, healthy living comes from what students allow to enter his or her body. It is not the fault of the fast food restaurants, though they are a great temptation, but the reality of the situation is it’s up to the student or the individual himself.

We are a united nation, so why not start with promoting healthy living, by getting the “obesity statistics” to freeze right where they stand, and start to prove the rest of the world that we are not a “fat” country.

## 2006-2007 Honor Award Recipients

### Kappa Gamma Pi

Rachel Elizabeth Boley  
Jennifer Pike  
Caitlin Stephenson  
Cindy K. Hung  
Tim Todd

### Delta Epsilon Sigma

Rachel Elizabeth Boley  
Jennifer Pike  
Caitlin Stephenson  
Emily Marie  
Danielle Laubach  
Lucas Villanueva  
Tim Todd

### St. Catherine’s Medal

Ashley L. Townsend

### St. Thomas More Medal

Michael T. Stolberg



## RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS KICK IT UP A NOTCH

"Road trippin' with my two favorite allies..." The Red Hot Chili Peppers themselves could not have described it better. Okay, well actually it was my

**By  
Kayle  
Walker**

'three' favorite allies that made the 350-mile road trip to Oklahoma City to see the Chili Peppers in concert.

I have seen a variety of concerts over the past few years and this concert was, hands down, the best concert I have even seen. If I had the opportunity to see them again I would even be willing to pay the big bucks. Unfortunately, the band is touring overseas and has not listed any shows after that.

The Chili Peppers may be twenty-year veterans in the rock industry, but they were full of energy when they performed. Lead singer Anthony Kiedis danced all over the stage pumping up the crowd. The concert was absolutely amazing.

The only thing I did not enjoy was the creep who opened for them, Mickey Avalon. He is an underground white rapper from California, who took the stage with two half naked dancers and only received boos from the crowd. His songs were sleazy and full of curse words. Song of his include, "So Rich, So Pretty", "Jane Fonda" and a song about his private part, "My D\*\*k."

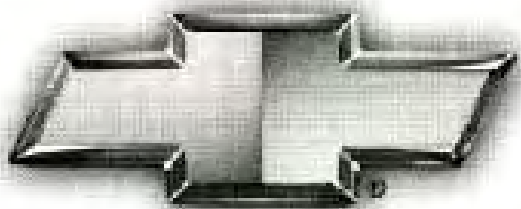
If things couldn't get worse, we had a one hour break before the Chili Peppers performed and when they did finally appear, guitarist John Frusciante lectured the crowd on their treatment of Avalon. Frusciante told the crowd that those who saw Avalon "will be bragging about it five years from now."

Later in the concert Flea mentioned Avalon and the crowd booed more. Frusciante then told the audience they should learn to accept music and performances other than what is "jammed down your throat by MTV."

The band was originally scheduled to have Gnarlz Barkley open for them, but because of the Jan. 12 delay from a snowstorm, Avalon took their place. It was an obvious mistake for this crowd, but the Chili Peppers were so outstanding that within a minute of their appearance, Avalon was far from my mind.

The Chili Peppers played some of their greatest hit including, "Can't Stop", "By the Way", "Scar Tissue" and "Give It Away." They then went on to play songs from their new album, Stadium Arcadium, including, "Tell Me Baby", "Charlie" and "Snow."

I couldn't even tell you what my favorite part was because I loved the entire thing. Honestly, they have to be the best band touring right now and I can't wait to see them again.



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## Raining Jane

After a quick warm-up and a loud sound check, the electric folk/rock band, Raining Jane took the stage at the Alumni Lounge to entertain Avila University students on March 20th as a part of their new United States tour. The show started at seven pm and lasted about an hour.

**By  
David  
Matheny**

"The show was a blast, if they ever came back I will definitely see them again," said bystander Jennifer Brinkman, after a most interesting performance put on by the band of four women. They played a set of music mostly from their new album. It had a sound ranging anywhere from folk Rock to Hip-hop and even a little bit of music that had an Indian sound.

The band was very free-spirited when they were on stage. While they switched instrument between songs

they talked to the crowd and told jokes that made everyone laugh. The crowd seemed pleased and enlightened after the show was over. Raining Jane said they were very happy to be playing at the Avila University campus.


Raining Jane has been a band since 1999. They are made up of four women, Mia, who is on the guitar, cello, and vocals; Mona, on the drums, percussion, and vocals; Chaska, on the vocals and guitar; and Becky who plays the base, guitar, and the sitar.

They began by playing the UCLA music scene and then began touring the United States. Raining Jane's next big show is on April 5th. They will be

opening up for the singer/songwriter India Arie in Boulder, Colorado.

For anyone who is interested in hearing more Raining Jane, one could visit [www.rainingjane.com](http://www.rainingjane.com) or [www.myspace.com/rainingjane](http://www.myspace.com/rainingjane). There is information about the band and their

upcoming gigs. Also, there is a link where fans can listen to songs from their newest CD or purchase their CDs.

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## THE GLADIATOR MAXIMUS VS. KING LEONIDAS: WHO SHALL EMERGE VICTORIOUS?

Maximus and Leonidas: both warriors, skilled marksmen, and men amongst boys. With that being said lets get down to it, who would win in a fight, Maximus or Leonidas? And I'm not talking 12 rounds, shake hands, lets do lunch, kind of fight. When I mean fight, I mean blood and guts. Two men going in and only one walking out. So let us break this one down.

First there is Maximus. Maximus is a 5'11 1/2" Roman General, turned Gladiator. His fighting style could be considered a tactical scrapper. One

**By  
Chadd  
Rivera**

of Maximus' strongest aspects coming into the fight is that he does not rely on numbers; he fought with an army and by himself (in the movie). Maximus used what appears to be a rusty knife and still killed some guys; however, you have to question whether he got a tetanus shot since then. Otherwise he may be a little weak. Something else to consider is his age, since he is five years Leoniadas' senior.

Leonidas has the size advantage, standing at 6'2". The Spartan King's fighting style is very strategic. Leonidas's best strength may be his training. The King has trained to be a Spartan warrior since the age of seven. He also seems to have the physical advantage in terms of being in shape. The King's biggest weakness is that his wife is freaking

hot! Even with your life on the line, if your wife looks like that, you have to be thinking about how hot she is.

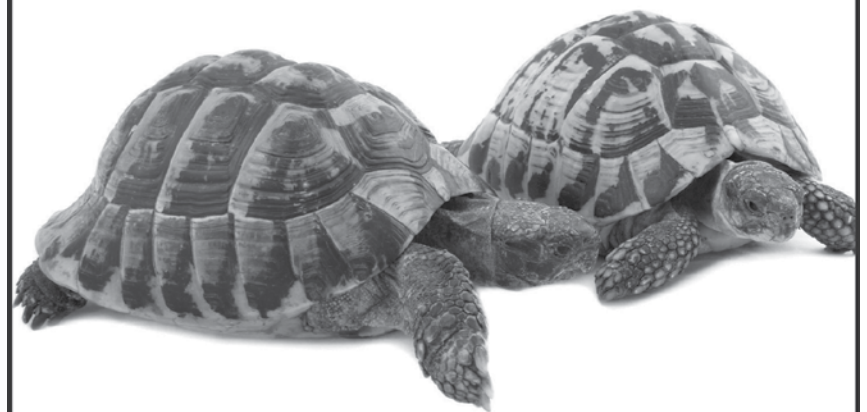
Both men can probably take down a pack of lions using a bar of soap and a plastic butter knife, but one of them must die (and since both already dead, one of them just has to die again). After careful consideration on the pros and cons of each contender, they both seem to be even. With that being said, this can only come down to one thing... movie quotes.

Leonidas bring some very good quotes to the table, such as: "This is where we fight! This is where they die!" and "This is Sparta!" But the strongest has to be, "Tonight we dine in hell!" Gladiator also has some memorable quotes: "Death smiles at us all. All a man can do is smile back," and "At my signal, unleash hell." Those are all good quotes, but the one that trumps them all, "My name is Maximus Decimus Meridius... father to a murdered son, husband to a murdered wife...and I shall have my vengeance...in this life or the next."

So it comes down to this, "Tonight we dine in hell!" verves "My name is Maximus Decimus Meridius...father to a murdered son, husband to a murdered wife...and I shall have my vengeance...in this life or the next." Both are great quotes, but it just seems like Maximus is a little more pissed off. Game, set, match and life go to Maximus Decimus Meridius. And if you don't like it, oh well, they're both dead anyway.

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# TALAN

NEWS MAGAZINE

Earth Day  
2007  
Mini-Magazine





# EARTH WHAT?

By Monica Lang

Honestly, does anyone seriously know when Earth Day is? What is it? Has any American really noticed the fine print on April 22nd? Check it. It says “Earth Day.” This year the Earth Day Network is calling for action on climate change. In order to create more awareness, the Earth Day Network’s Urban Environment Report (UER) scored the current environmental performance of 72 of our nation’s cities. They were judged on Toxic & Waste, air quality, drinking and surface water, quality of life, parks and recreation opportunities, human and public health, and global warming climate change. Congratulations Kansas City! According to the Urban Environment Report our city ranked 3rd best (out of 72) in having the cleanest drinking and surface water. Each year, seven million Americans become sick from contaminated tap water, and as the U.S urban population continues to grow the demand for water supplies increases due to the wastewater and the pollutants dumped into the waterways (at the rate of 60 gallons per person each day).

With a fantastic rank in fresh water, the KC ego just bumped up a few notches, I feel, but sadly the global warming ratio was not quite up to par. Kansas City was ranked a lousy 57th (out of 72) in the global warming climate change category. U.S. cities in general are creating 80 percent of the carbon dioxide gas in our atmosphere, and not to mention other greenhouse toxic gases.

Americans are slowly making a global stand when it comes to global warming. Who is to blame though, the hard working Americans, who want the best for themselves and their families? Americans are satisfied and driven towards the instant gratification lifestyle here in the US. My point is that Americans are busy. There is so much going on, so much news coverage on the celebrity gossip that Americans rarely even know it is a growing problem. American television and internet sites are so focused on entertainment gossip and nonsense that it has created a fun filled frenzy of entertainment, not one of the awareness on the real news issues i.e. global warming, deforestation, etc.

Sure, Americans have heard about global warming, but what are they doing to change their actions in order to help the environment? To be frank, I don’t think a whole, hell, of a lot. The reality is that global warming isn’t going anywhere. The deforestation isn’t going anywhere either. The air pollution, toxic waste problem, quality of life, isn’t going anywhere. It will remain right under the rug where Americans have shoved it. Americans are so involved in their personal lives that they can’t take a short five minute shower, carpool, or turn off the lights while not in use. Or can Americans do these things and they are just too lazy? Are Americans this selfish? No they are not. So jump onto the bandwagon to saving our ecosystem. And not just on Earth Day, but every day how about Americans start by taking 5 minutes showers, and turning off all the lights when they are not in use. Americans need to pull their heads out of “lack of awareness” mode, and need to start changing their lifestyles, and start building towards a healthier “save the planet” way of life.





# RAIN, GET OUT!

## By Colleen Reagan

When it rains here on campus as well as anywhere else, what is the most annoying part? Is it how the campus floods, making everyone's pants drenched at the bottom? Notice how Kansas City loves rain? It is always raining which is very annoying because that means flooding. To prevent flooding as well as adding to the building of a beautiful and healthier environment, rain gardens are the answer.

What exactly are rain gardens? In asking this question Mike Sharp, Jacqueline Sharps father responded, "A rain garden is a natural or dug shallow depression designed to capture and soak up storm water runoff from walkways, and even compacted lawn areas. The rain garden is planted with suitable trees, shrubs, flowers, and other plants allowing runoff to soak into the ground and protect water quality."

Rain gardens improve local water quality while creating a beautiful natural area that will attract birds and butterflies. Rain gardens allow rain and melted snow to soak naturally into the ground. This helps prevent a water quality problem called polluted runoff. This also helps with revitalizing our groundwater supply. Rain gardens are an important way to make our cities more attractive places to live while building a healthy environment.

To make the rain gardens more effective they are usually placed next to hard surfaces such as sidewalks, driveways and under gutters.

Avila University should really consider purchasing a rain garden. Not only would it be beneficial to the appearance of the university, but it will benefit the students at the university as well. Who wants to be walking around a campus that has no life

or color? Rain gardens, with the proper plants, will also increase the number and diversity of birds and butterflies for those who enjoy watching them. It will also, as said earlier, add beauty to our campus and perhaps attract more students. If Avila does not end up purchasing rain gardens then our campus will require less maintenance because they do not need to be mowed, fertilized, or watered once established. The number one reason Avila should obtain rain gardens is because they will reduce storm drain overload and flooding.

Rachel Meyer, first year student said, "I think rain gardens would be very useful on our campus because it annoying when my pants always get wet. Rain gardens will also help keep our environment healthier and make our campus actually look like it has life instead of having no landscaping."

## By Jonathan Green

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There are many environmental issues that are widely known throughout the country, such as Global Warming, Deforestation, and Air Pollution, but there are also many environmental issues that do not get the same kind of attention that these do.

One of these less heard of issues is "Light Pollution." Light pollution is a term that refers to light being overused and wasted that is harmful to the environment, and/or may be irritating to nocturnal creatures. Before the days of electricity these creatures were able to survive in their natural habitats with only natural problems to worry about. The light from cities, suburbs, parking lots, and other areas with excessive

amounts of light can cause disruptions in the behaviors of these animals.

For example, certain types of night blooming flowers rely on pollination from moths. Moths use the natural sky light to navigate, and thus light from other sources will throw off the moths navigation and it will be unable to pollinate the flowers. If the flower does not then receive the proper pollination it will be unable to reproduce and as a result die. This will throw off the life cycles of other creatures that rely on the flower.

There are multiple ways that light pollution could be prevented; by turning house lights off sooner, or even turning parking lot lights off when not in use, all

the solutions require that there be no light. It is unrealistic to expect anybody to not use their lights at night. Nobody wants to go back to the days of kerosene lamps, or other types of not electrical lighting. People want to be able to just flip a switch and have their house lighted. I do not see light pollution to be a huge threat to the environment, at least not as much some of the others, and that is probably why not much attention is given to the issue.

Although light pollution throws off the natural life cycle of multiple creatures, it has not yet affected the environment in negative ways that are easily noticeable and it is impossible to convince people to stop using light during the evenings.

# POLLUTION

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WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION. [WWW.MYSPACE.COM/AUTEAMINNOVATION](http://WWW.MYSPACE.COM/AUTEAMINNOVATION)



# BLINDED BY THE LIGHT

By Brook McNally

Even though the recent change to daylight savings time has added an hour of light to our days, most people still flip on the light switch as they enter a room. As the cost of electricity and the threat of global warming continue to rise, there is a lot of talk about what individuals and businesses can do to conserve energy. One way is to switch out traditional incandescent or halogen light bulbs to fluorescent light bulbs.

## Compact Fluorescent Bulbs: A Bright Idea

According to GE's website (www.gelighting.com), compact fluorescent lights are more energy-efficient than regular bulbs because of the different method they use to produce light. Regular bulbs (also known as incandescent bulbs) create light by heating a filament inside the bulb. While a fluorescent bulb contains a gas that produces invisible ultraviolet light (UV) when the gas is excited by electricity.

Because fluorescent bulbs don't use heat to create light, they are far more energy-efficient than regular incandescent bulbs. Fluorescent bulbs use 2/3 less energy than standard incandescent light bulbs, and last up

to 10 times longer. Replacing a 60-watt incandescent with a 13-watt CFL can save you at least \$30 in energy costs over the life of the bulb.

In addition, CFLs produce about 70% less heat than standard incandescent bulbs, so they're safer to operate and can help cut energy costs associated with home cooling. According to Energy Star's website (www.energystar.gov), If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR compact fluorescent bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 2.5 million homes for a year and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of nearly 800,000 cars.

## Lights at Avila

Avila is already using fluorescent and compact fluorescent bulbs in most of the buildings on campus. David Gebauer is the Director of Maintenance for Residence Life and has been with Avila's Physical Plant/ Building Services for 32 years. According to Gebauer, "there are some places on campus that we are not currently using fluorescent bulbs, but the majority of the campus is on plan to switch those bulbs and/or fixtures out over the next two years."

According to Gebauer, 99% of all of Avila's electricity comes in on one high voltage line to a single meter and is then dispersed out to multiple buildings. When the plans for the new Residence Hall were completed, it included its own electrical meter, so energy costs will be able to be determined for that specific building, when construction is complete.

## What YOU Can Do!

Replace old bulbs! Quit buying incandescent bulbs. Consider the fact that although it is only about \$1 for 4 incandescent bulbs, they use 4 times the electricity and increase carbon emissions. Buy only Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs that are ENERGY STAR rated. Change out the bulbs you use most often first: desk lamp, overhead living room or kitchen lights, etc.

It's important to change your bulbs, but people also have to be willing to change their habits. Gebauer said that "Building Services is frequently asked to repair something in a dorm room and when they go in the room, every light is on, or the computer or radio is left on and no one is in the room." Turn off or unplug electronics and lights that you aren't using so you don't waste the energy you just conserved by switching out your light bulbs. Even when turned off, things like hair dryers and cell phone chargers continue to use energy when plugged into the wall.

# College Presidents Urged to Achieve Climate Neutrality

By Chris Williamson

The American College & University Presidents Climate Commitment is an environmental organization working to gain the endorsement of college presidents toward achieving climate neutrality for their campuses. The ACUPCC defines 'climate neutrality' as "having no greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions"

Formed by twelve college presidents in December 2006, the ACUPCC has formed a road map toward climate neutrality for universities willing to commit to the cause. The organization is hoping for 4000 signatories in all.

ACUPCC's website states that students at the University of Colorado-Boulder organized a vote increasing student fees by \$1 per semester to purchase the entire output of 2 million kWh/year wind turbine. They later

voted to increase their purchase to 8.8 million kWh/year. This reduced their emissions by 12 million pounds.

Locally, Park University became a signatory on March 31st, 2007. Park University President Byers-Pevitts explained to the Talon that Park is planning to build a new residence building next fall and they have already committed to building green.

She told the Talon, "Sometimes there is an increase in cost at the front end but you save money at the back end because your building's much more efficient."

The Talon brought the Climate Commitment to our own President Slepitz. Since he was previously unaware of the program, the Talon left him a copy of the materials printed from the ACUPCC web site.

Later, he told the Talon that he encourages "...the faculty, staff and students at Avila to examine these issues of global warming, their many far reaching effects, and the strategies to achieve climate neutrality so that together we might develop an action plan for increasing awareness and for leading us to responsible action as a university."

Is this right for Avila? Maybe not. It requires a substantial commitment in the form of time and money. Instead of jumping on a bandwagon, it might be best for Avila to do our own thing.

We are a very small campus. It is important that we have a plan to become more environmentally friendly, but it is not crucial that we sign onto someone else's program. Further information can be found at [presidentsclimatecommitment.org](http://presidentsclimatecommitment.org).



AMERICAN COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY  
PRESIDENTS CLIMATE COMMITMENT

## What exactly are presidents and chancellors committing to?

- Setting up a mechanism (committee, task force, office, etc.) within 2 months to guide the process.
- Completing an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions within 1 year, starting July 2007.
- Creating and implementing a climate neutral plan (that includes a target date and interim milestones for achieving campus climate neutrality) within 2 years.
- Taking 2 of 6 immediate steps specified in the commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while the more comprehensive plan is being developed.
- Integrating sustainability into the curriculum and making it part of the educational experience.
- Making the action plan, inventory and periodic progress reports publicly available.

Source: ACUPCC Website



# RECYCLE

By David Matheny

How important is printing paper to the students here at Avila? My guess would be that it is very important. All our homework is done on the computer these days. At least mine is and I almost always have to hand my projects in on paper. Rarely do I just e-mail it. I would say I probably print at least 15 to 20 pages a week. Sometimes more. Now if every student and professor on campus is printing even half as much paper as I am, that is a lot of paper over the course of a year.. A lot of trees are dying so we can hand in our homework. That's why I'm saying down with homework, save the trees! Just kidding, but that is a lot of paper.

It takes two to three and a half tons of trees to make one ton of paper. Paper production is expected to increase by 77% from 1995 to 2020. 16% of our paper comes from old growth forests. Old growth forests are the forests that have lots of those really

giant, cool looking trees. They are really old and have lots of rare species of plants and animals in them as well. Near 80% of the worlds old growth forests have been logged and degraded. Here in the United States we have already lost 95% of our old growth forests. 40% of those logged trees go to making paper for you and I. I don't know about you, but I would like to keep the remaining 5% if possible. So what can we do about it here at Avila?

Unfortunately we don't use recycled paper at Avila. Probably because it's more expensive than non-recycled paper. If Avila switches from regular printing paper to recycled printing paper they will be saving two to four more giant trees. Another good thing about recycled paper is that for every ton of paper that is recycled we can get almost another ton worth of new paper.

Now the good thing Avila is doing is recycling. They recycle all the boxes and

magazines they can, but I'm not sure if anyone who knows about it. Everyone I see throws all his or her paper in the trash can along with everything else. A good thing to do would be to put trash cans next to the other trash cans that are labeled "paper." That way everyone can throw any kind of paper or box that they don't need in there.

Avila's and its printing paper is not the only thing that can stand a little improvement. We can all change our ways to help the environment. I'm not saying go sell your 1989 Ford Tempo and go buy a Prius. I'm talking about the small ways. Like changing your lights bulbs in your house to energy efficient ones, or start recycling. There are many small things that can be done. There's a whole world of information about "greening" our environment at our fingertips. All we have to do is decide to help the cause, and then do it.

# CARPOOL

By Banen Chaney

There have been many suggestions on how to keep campus, as well as life, a green-friendly environment. One that has been obvious to all is carpooling. It is well known to everyone that carpooling can save energy, eliminate the burning of fossil fuels, and also save money, but is it feasible?

"It's not possible for me because nobody has classes at the same time that I do," Brian Poterbin said.

As a commuter student, I find it very inconvenient to carpool. Riding with someone

eliminates the option of leaving campus early, or running errands in between classes. It is also difficult if you are not coming from somewhere close.

"If I lived at school this might be possible, however, everyone at school is so busy," Elizabeth Angotti said. "My guess would be that by the time I would drive just to meet someone to carpool with, I might as well have driven myself to Avila."

With multiple different reasons, a carpool can be difficult. For those who have

the means, I feel there are some alternatives. Those of us that live in the Red Bridge area or Coach House should consider other forms of transportation. With the nice weather, walking or cycling should not be left out of the mix. Not only is it a great opportunity for exercise, but it may also help with the parking problems on campus.

Whatever the solution, it is necessary that Avila students look at these options consciously and choose what works best for them and their environment.

# Recycling in the Residence Hall

By Seneca Booth

Jennifer Lee and Rachael Roth started a recycling program in Avila's residence halls to encourage students that live on campus to recycle. They set up recycling areas on the 2nd floor of Carondelet and on the sixth floor of Ridgeway. Each week they collect the recycled materials and deliver the items to

center. The program is in its infancy, but they hope that it will turn into a campus wide effort within the next year. If you would like to participate in the growth of this program plan to attend the Recycling Brainstorming Meeting on Thursday, May 3rd at 12:30pm in the Alumni Lounge. See you there!





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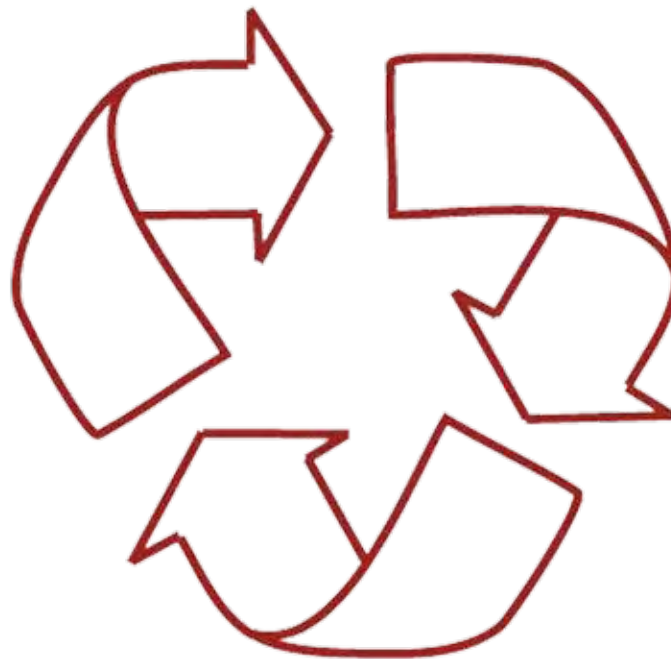
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## Avila Celebrates Sacred Day

By Banen Chaney

On Monday, March 19, St. Joseph's day was celebrated on the Avila campus. The celebration included a mass and the dedication of a peace pole next to the chapel.

"St. Joseph was the earthly father of Jesus who endured much in order to bring Salvation into our world through Jesus," Director of Campus Ministries Dave Armstrong said. "It is through his humility and loving example that our sponsors, The Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet take their name."

The day was not only special for religion; it was very special to the Avila community.

"The day is significant because it is the day we at Avila celebrate the Sisters who gave us Avila 90 years ago," Armstrong said. "About 30 CSJs of Carondelet were with us to renew their vows as they do annually on this special day. For the first time this year we had 11 candidates, all a part of our Avila community, who committed to becoming Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet."

"The mass that day was one of the best ever. I had one sister comment that it was the most energized St. Joseph mass we

have had in years," Armstrong said. "The wonderful choir provided so much energy thanks to Dr. Amity Bryson. Our cantor and musician, Joy Donze and Michael Stolberg added so much with their music as well."

Following the mass, guests were asked to congregate outside of the chapel in order to help dedicating the peace pole. The pole was dedicated in honor of Sister Helen Prejean.

"Because we are a Catholic institution of higher learning sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and because we value justice and peace we wanted to lace this pole as a visible sign of what it is we value," Armstrong said. "The pole was placed in a prominent location so that we will all be reminded daily that we have an obligation to build peace in our lives as well as throughout the world."

The celebration benefits the Avila community and will continue to do so.

"The chapel was packed and it was a wonderful celebration," Armstrong said. "This was a significant day for Avila because in a loud and visible way we proclaimed that the charism (spirit) of the Sisters of St. Joseph is alive and well at Avila University."

## Family Bluegrass Entertains Avila

By Emily Hoskins

The exhilarating bluegrass and gospel music of the Hartley family brought both excitement and tranquility to the Avila University campus on April 17, 2007. The Hartley family consists of parents Deb and Tom and their six offspring Anna, Aaron, Josiah, Daniel, Abby, and Micah. Believe it or not, they all participate in this musical band that has been created over the past 3 ½ years.

Tom Hartley said they just started off as "pickers" and when people would hear the sweet sound that they created, they would ask them to play again and again. The Hartley's mostly perform at selected churches and bluegrass festivals.

This unique family from Arkadelphia, Arkansas really began to get into music when the father, Tom, started learning to play the banjo. It then escalated into everyone picking up their instrument of choice. Deb

plays the big bass fiddle, Anna and Abby both play the guitar, Josiah plays the fiddle, Daniel plays the mandolin, and Micah plays the "bic", which is a little instrument made out of a tambourine with a carved neck and head.

The Hartley's want to set the record straight, they are not just musicians or "pickers", but they are first and foremost a family. And probably one of the nicest families one will ever meet. On April 21st they will play at the Mountain View Festival in Arkansas, which is considered the folk capital of the country.

With the dad in charge of the preparation and song selection, this family is a well-oiled machine that will amaze anyone who chooses to stop and listen to their beautiful harmonies. If you enjoyed their sound, call 1-870-246-2646 to find out more information.

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## Death Proof Just May Shock Its Way to the Red Carpet

By Banen Chaney

Quentin Tarantino seems to only have one goal with his movie Death Proof and that is shock.

With Kurt Russell exercising his acting talents as the creepy Stunt Man Mike, the movie is flawlessly entertaining. Russell's character is a peculiar and scary man with an unbelievable fetish in coming close to death.

Even though many famous faces can be found glittering the screen, such as Rosario Dawson and Rose McGowan, it is necessary for watchers to not get blinded by this. The actress to watch closely and pay attention to is Zoe Bell. In the film, Bell plays herself. Bell is a stunt double on the set of a new big movie, and can be found palling around with her fellow cast and crew of the "movie," as well

as opting not to take any unnecessary grief from Russell's character.

Throughout Death Proof, it is amazing to see that these crazy car chase scenes and stunts are actually done by this woman. The stunts are the type that make anyone take a second look and try to convince themselves that it is all fake. Tarantino does well showing Bell's many talents as an actress and stunt woman.

Bell may be recognized by her work on Kill Bill, volumes 1 and 2. She played Uma Thurman's stunt double.

As a second part to the double feature Grindhouse, Death Proof holds its own. It is a strong movie that is sure to do well once award season comes around.



## A BASEBALL STORY

Being number one means a lot to most teams, but for the men's baseball team it means nothing.

Not yet anyway, the Eagles are currently ranked at the top of their conference and their region. They have also earned the number twelve ranking in the nation, which is the highest ranking in Avila baseball history.

### By Wes Backes

This is quite an accomplishment under the tenacious leadership of Head Coach Ryan Howard. Although in Howard's eyes, the rankings don't mean anything. "We must continue to stay mentally tough, not play down to anyone's level, and just play our game."

Depth has been key for Avila's success this season according to Coach



Chad Smith and Rob Carey can be accounted for nine wins between the two. Rob Carey is one of the conference leaders with an overall Earned Run Average of 3.03.

Chad had turned five starts into five wins, throwing 3 complete games and having an overall ERA of 1.44. Chad feels his success on the mound has been due to a strong offensive support, which has been a significant aspect of their performance. The Eagles have also minimized consecutive losses, which is crucial in conference play.

Avila's lineup currently has 8 players batting .300 and above, and a team batting average of .316. One of those players being senior Willie Keene, batting .372 with 10 bombs, 32 Runs Batted In, and a slugging percentage of .802. Willie is also among the top conference leaders. Junior Terry Goddard has also showcased a batting average of .457 with 7 home runs and 22 RBIs, currently ranked number two in the HAAC. Although it may seem the Eagles are sitting pretty, Coach Howard feels that they must minimize strikeouts on the offensive end as well as cut down mistakes on the defensive side.

Besides the fact the Avila has done well up to this point, it hasn't been easy. Here in the Midwest, the weather dictates when you play ball and when you sit inside. The spring weather has made it a little difficult for the Eagles to hit their full stride, forcing

games to be cancelled.

Yet good teams find a way to accomplish their goals to keep that competitive edge. "Coaches have been keeping the pressure on us so that we are sure not to lose focus," said senior Greg Liebenberg.

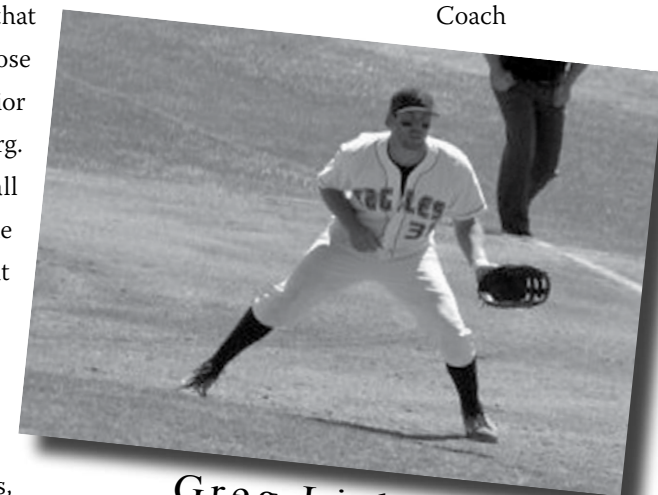
When weather is a factor, the baseball team will take their practices into the gym where they can get a full workout in.

Running bunt plays, hitting, fielding, and conditioning, are everyday objectives for the Eagles. The weather might be harsh at times, but it hasn't kept them from fulfilling their goals.

The Eagles did have a scare last month when freshmen Austin Speer was struck in the head by a line drive while throwing batting practice. This was a very unfortunate accident for Austin, and he was taken to the emergency room and

treated for a concussion. Thankfully he has recovered, but will be forced to sit out the rest of the season.

With an uphill battle still to go, the eagles will have to continue playing their game and improve as the weeks go on. Pitching Coach



Greg Liebenberg

Tom Miller says, "Our bullpen must find its rhythm in order for us to be successful late in the season." The baseball team has twenty regular season games left and with the west side of the conference ahead, it should make for an exciting end to conference play.



Rob Carey

Howard. The pitching staff, for example, consisting of twelve or more pitchers, has been putting in work, accumulating twenty wins and nine complete games between starting pitchers.

### Avila's Carter recognized by Heart of America Athletic Conference

Avila University junior women's golfer Jayme Carter (Lee's Summit, MO) was selected today recognizing her as one of 14 student's nation wide to be honored by the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) for the 2006-2007 A.O. Duer Award.

Carter was selected by the 11 member schools from the Heart of America Athletic Conference to represent them at the national level for this award.

The award is named in honor of the NAIA's former executive secretary

who served the association for 26 years and has been presented annually since 1967 to one male and female junior student-athlete in any sport who has excelled in scholarship, character, and citizenship.

To be eligible for this award, a student-athlete must have an overall grade point average of at least 3.75 (on a 4.0 scale) and be in his/her junior year.

For more information, contact the Avila Athletic Department at 816-501-3634.



## Royals Season Preview

By John De Roo

The Kansas City Royals began their 2007 season with a 7-1 victory over the Boston Red Sox at the beginning of this month. It was a good start for a ball club that has lost 100 or more games three straight years, and four out of the last five years. New general manager Dayton Moore gutted the pitching staff over the winter, leaving left-handed reliever Jimmy Gobble as the only holdover from last year's opening day pitching staff. Dayton also overhauled the Royals infield with second baseman Mark Grudzielanek being the only holdover from last year's starting infield. Newcomers Gil Meche, Octavio Dotel, David Riske, Tony Pena Jr., and Jason LaRue will be among the players the Royals hope will help lead them back to respectability. Heralded prospect Alex Gordon will take over at third base and attempt to be the first rookie since Angel Berroa in 2003 to win the American

League Rookie of the Year award. Gordon will also hope his career does not peak after one season like Berroa's did. Former third baseman Mark Teahen is now outfielder to accommodate Gordon's arrival and Royals officials believe he will be an above average right fielder. It will be a switch that will have some bumps, but Teahen is a good athlete who should make a smooth transition to the outfield. The American League Central Division was the toughest division in baseball last season and figures to be again this year, but the Royals should be the most improved team in the division. I expect the Royals to be in the 70-80 win range; and although it does not sound like much, it will still be a big improvement in the game's toughest division. Come on out to the ballpark this year to cheer on the Royals. It will be a more entertaining summer this year than in years' past.


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Brent Brazell  
 Advantage student,  
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## Avila Baseball-"THAT'S WHATS UP!"

By Colleen Reagan

The Eagles are back and have immensely enhanced their style of play. Practice by practice, game by game, Avila Eagles strive to be as great as they can be. With having daily two in a half to three hour practices, the Eagles should be able to come on top this year!

They are in the Heart of America Conference (HAAC), which is one of the toughest conferences in NAIA. Last season the Eagles started off 22 and 4, finishing 30 and 17, which ranked them 20th in the nation. This gave Avila all the more reason to be so pumped for this season. The Eagles were about to take it to the next level. As of Tuesday, March 27, 2007 Eric Menees said that the Eagles were ranked 16th in the nation. Menees

said, "The Eagles are offensively one of the top teams in the conference. In the pitching category, they are the top in the conference." Let's just say Avila Eagles baseball is really rising to the occasion!

An interesting fact about the Avila baseball team is that out of 36 players, about 26 of them are from California. When it comes to the Eagles, this team has each other backs. They are really close as a team. They eat together, sleep together (if they

are dorm mates or housemates), party together, practice and play together.

This just sounds like a bunch of brothers that they never knew they had. When in the crowd at a game, the cheering and screaming of the whole team is in the air. They really know how to stay positive and keep each others spirits high. Meenes says,

"Coach expects us to hold each other accountable; it is more the player's

team than our coach's team. We are responsible for our own actions."

Baseball is one of greatest sports to go watch. It is so relaxing hanging out with your friends in the fresh air while cheering on your other friends who play. Clearly there aren't as many fans at the Eagles games as there are at professional baseball games, but there is a pretty good turn out at the home games.

When asked the best part about being out their playing Eric Menees commented, "When the fans are drunk because they say shit and that just pumps us all up, and that's what's up!"



Adam Rodriguez



## New Volleyball Coach: Jan Madlock

By Dani Asher

You may or may not have heard that the volleyball team was once again without a coach. The position has been filled and according to Jan Madlock, she is here to stay. Jan has a pretty extensive volleyball resume under her belt. She played at Illinois State as a defensive specialist, before going on to be an assistant coach there as well. Madlock gained more collegiate coaching experience as an assistant at the University of Iowa and the University of Kansas. After seven years of coaching at the collegiate level, Jan accepted the Head Coach position at Blue Valley Northwest, where she remained for seven years.

Madlock took on the coaching role at Avila because, "I had been out of college coaching for awhile, and I wanted to try a small atmosphere. My coaching philosophy is more aligned with the NAIA." Jan got into coaching in the first place because she had had such a great

experience as a volleyball player herself. "I wanted to be in a position to help players get an experience like I did. Sports allow us to have so much more than what takes place on the court."

Jan considers her coaching style laid back and relaxed, "I am not a yeller, and I treat players as individuals." She wants to establish this young team, and hopefully get them back into the conference tournament. With the experience she has returning, Madlock wants to maintain a high level of play. "I am very excited about the core we have in place now. They are a fun group that works hard."

For those of you who think it would be great to see a volleyball tradition started here at Avila, Jan plans on doing just that. "It takes awhile for players to get used to you and the system. I want to establish stability and continuity for the players."

## March Madness Money

By Emily Hoskins

It seems as though everybody is getting a little taste of the green except for the hard-working players of Division I basketball. Of course their tuition is completely paid for, but there really is more going on behind the curtain. Student-athletes need money just like any other average college student, and perhaps even more. According to the executive editor of ESPN, Steve Wulf, many college athletes come from disadvantaged backgrounds. This means that the free tuition is cool and all, but they are still going to need money for other expenses that every college student faces. Astonishingly the NCAA finally realized this and decided to allow athletes to have a job earning up to \$2000 during the school year. Wow, that sounds fun. Go to class all day, and then head to your three hour practice only to be totally drained by working your night job. Repeat that 3 to 4 days a week? I do not think so.

Who really gets the reward for the athletes' hard work and dedication? Well, there is a little thing called tournament money. If a team reaches the NCAA tournament then that University will receive money depending on how many credits they have. Every NCAA tournament game played by a league member from 2001-2006, counts as a credit.

This season the NCAA basketball fund will most generously distribute about \$132.6 million throughout the country for teams' performances in the NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament. Next let us look at the Big 12 shall we? In the 2005-2006 season, the basketball fund distributed \$14.4 million to the Big 12. Do the payers see any of that? Maybe when they get their new shoes or sweats next season.

Even the coaches are getting their hands on the wealth. In addition to his already bulging salary, Kansas' Bill Self

received \$50,000 for the regular season Big 12 championship and then another \$25,000 for the conference tournament title. That's all well and good, but was he out there on the court slamming the ball down the rim?

Division I basketball, or any college sport for that matter, provides a huge source of a university's income. The school takes money from ticket sales, television contracts, and sport-related merchandise, just to name a few. College athletes are exploited by their schools, which make millions of dollars off of them. This leads to violations, students leaving college early, and student-athletes that cannot even afford to do their laundry.

If the athletes did not have to worry so much about the money, they would be more apt to wait for that professional contract and get their college diploma. A suggested solution would be that the professional leagues work with colleges to encourage student-athletes to stay in school.

They could do this by initiating a salary cap on all rookies entering the league. If the athlete stays to complete their college degree, the cap would be higher and therefore they would make more money. If the athlete left school early though, the cap would be lowered and they could only receive the league's minimum. This would give the athlete an incentive to obtain his/her degree.

I have faith that the NCAA and professional leagues can work together to institute a plan to compensate these athletes and remedy the problems. Besides, athletes just need to remember how much fun the game is, live their college lives, and be worry free about the whole money thing.

## Global ecosystem under stress

The Earth's natural resources are being used 25% faster than the planet can renew them, analysis by World Wildlife Fund (WWF) indicates; humanity is no longer living off nature's interest but drawing down its capital.

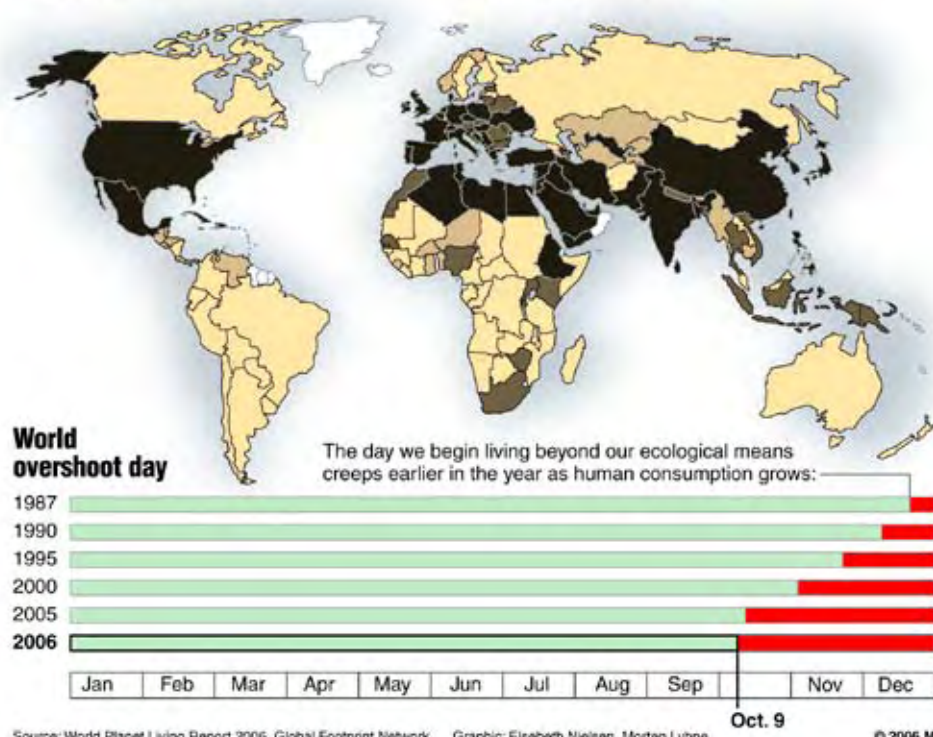
### National ecological footprint relative to nationally available biocapacity

**Eco debt** (living beyond ecological means)

- Footprint more than 50% larger than biocapacity
- Footprint 0-50% larger than biocapacity

**Eco credit** (living below ecological means)

- Biocapacity 0-50% larger than footprint
- Biocapacity more than 50% larger than footprint
- Insufficient data





## ULTIMATE CHAMPIONS

By Emily Hoskins

The Gators and the Lady Vols came through with the 2007 NCAA national championship titles. A tempting option to leave for the pros was rejected and another national championship was the reward for Florida.

Many of their players could have left last year and been a part of the 2006 NBA draft, but they chose to reside in Florida once again. For one team it was a two-peat that was made for the history books, and for the other it had been nine long years since grasping this victory they had long been thirsting for.

The Florida Gators re-

turned all five starters from last year's national championship team and executed with such perfection that the Ohio State Buckeye's were no match for them. Of course it could have helped that OSU was just 4-23 from the 3-point line for the entire game and at the other end the Gators were 10-18.

Early in the game there was hope for the Buckeyes when they jumped out to a 9-7 lead, but Florida went ahead when they hit three consecutive 3-point shots to put them up 33-22 with only 3:51 to play before intermission. Florida never looked back as they kept their lead throughout the rest

of the game and beat Ohio State with the final score of 84-75.

It was not like the Buckeyes just laid down and let the Gators walk all over them. Freshman center Greg Oden led them with 25 points and 12 rebounds, his 14th double-double of the season.

But the combined power of Lee Humphery, Joakim Noah, Corey Brewer, Al Horford, and Taurean Green, showed to be too much for the Buckeye's to handle.

As for the women's Tennessee team, victory was just as sweet. The Lady Vols kept getting to the final four and

championship games time after time, only to be faced with harsh disappointment.

A nine year drought certainly motivated them to perform to perfection in the championship game against Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

After building a 16 point lead and then containing a late run that was put on by Rutgers, the Lady Vols ended the last 30 seconds of the game dribbling out the clock in anticipation of their victory. Leading Tennessee was the most outstanding player Candice Parker who finished with 17 points to help her team defeat Rutgers 59-46.

So what if it was Pat Summit's 7th championship in her career, for this current Tennessee team it was their first. Although both the men's and women's championships were not really the most exciting championship games, they certainly revealed the best teams in the nation.

Tennessee will try to climb back again next year for another title. The two-peat by Florida, the only one since Duke in 1991-1992, is certainly one for the history books. The tournament madness is over and the champions have been proclaimed.

## NBA Playoffs Have Arrived!

By Emily Hoskins

Oh baby, oh baby the playoffs are here! NBA anyone? Yes, it's that time again where the top eight teams from each conference in the NBA begin a long two month battle for the title. To describe the process of the playoffs; there is the First Round, the Conference Semifinals, the NBA Conference Finals, and finally the big bad NBA Finals where the best two teams will meet and fight to the death. Well, at least until one team ends the game with more points than the other. For these sixteen teams, in addition to

the 82 game regular season, they are playing four rounds of a best-of-seven series. And the winners of those rounds face a minimum of another 16 games.

The NBA playoffs officially begin on April 21, 2007 and continue through June. There are a few teams that stand out from all the rest. These three teams in particular show their higher level of engagement and talent within the game of basketball. They are the Phoenix Suns, The Dallas Mavericks, and the San Antonio Spurs.

Throughout most of the regular season it has been the Dallas Mavericks leading the way. In one long stretch during the season, the Mavs went on a dominant 17 game winning streak that struck fear into each opponent they faced. This team, lead by their top scorer Dirk Nowitzki, who averages 25 points a game, seems as though they cannot be stopped. The Suns are led by former MVP and second leading scorer Steve Nash, who is number one in the assists category this year. Two other names that should be affiliated to Phoenix

are Amare Stoudemire and Shawn Marion. These two men are especially entertaining to watch with their extreme athleticism and skill. As for the Spurs there are only three players that come to mind. They are the towering Tim Duncan, Tony Parker, and the sharp shooter Manu Ginobili. It seems as though these three players work together as one unit, that the only way they could lose a game is if one of them got into foul trouble.

These three teams have fought all season long against each other and not one has

been dominant over the other. If I had to make a choice as to which of these three teams were to win it all, it would be the Dallas Mavericks. If you want to watch a one man show, watch Kobe Bryant and the L.A. Lakers. If you want to watch good teams play the game the right way, watch any of the three teams suggested. The playoffs are here. They will test every team and only the true competitors will show no mercy. Only the champions can call themselves the best team in the nation.



## Even the Topic is Toxic: Transsexuals

Ladies and Gentleman as published in the New York Times on May 23rd, 2004, the board of directors has given the approval for transsexuals to participate in the Olympic Games. First and foremost, what is a transsexual? It is a person

**By  
Monica  
Lang**

whose sexual identification is entirely with the opposite sex. This "approval" will be in effect during the Olympic Games

in Athens. Several Avila students, after hearing this decision, thought it should be illegal. How is it that a human being born a male then undergoes a sex change operation and takes "hormones for two years," is thereafter legally permitted to compete against a woman? Obviously, his physical genes have the ability to overpower a woman in a competition, right? This was brought up a few years ago when Renee Richards (Richard Raskin) fought hard and successfully sued the United States Tennis Association. She was denied the ability to compete in the U.S. Women's Open during the 1970's. Is this justice?

Technically speaking, some people believe that transsexualism is "a medical condition in which a person's sense of identity as a man or a woman does not match their biological sex." Clearly, that can be seen as a psychological handicap. So, how is it that we, as a society, try not to blame transsexuals for being the way they are, but then ban them from certain activities, like the Olympic Games? I believe that was Renee Richards' point. She can't exactly choose her sexual brain, especially since it was determined during her creation, or so she believes. So, the only justification for this seems to show some means of equality.

Transsexuals themselves in our society are looked at as "abnormal." Is this really fair? The only synonym that comes up for transsexual is homosexual,

and is that really fair to throw them in that category? A transsexual believes that there is an obvious magnitude related to gender. He or she believes that gender must be corrected through operation or hormones, in order to justify the mentality of the transsexual. The satisfaction of that sex-change operation for that individual is that he or she will no longer be discriminated against, but does discrimination continue?

In another article by Sherry L Colb entitled, "Can transsexual sue their employers for sexual discrimination," There is the repetition of the same complaint, "this transsexual thinks of womanhood as an exaggerated caricature of



Renee Richards

feminine characteristics. She does not understand that what makes us "women" is having been treated as women by other women and by men all of our lives. Sexual reassignment surgery, on this view, could never turn a man into a woman, because it is not biology, but gendered life experience, that makes us who we are." It is these transsexuals who are driven to get surgery in order to avoid such sexual discrimination; however Sherry's reaction was to share the skepticism about the ability of surgery to make a grown man into a woman. On the other hand, Sherry felt very sad for the transsexual because she so badly wanted to be included; however it seems as though she was still ex-

periencing the very bias or rejection that drove her to get the operation to become a woman in the first place.

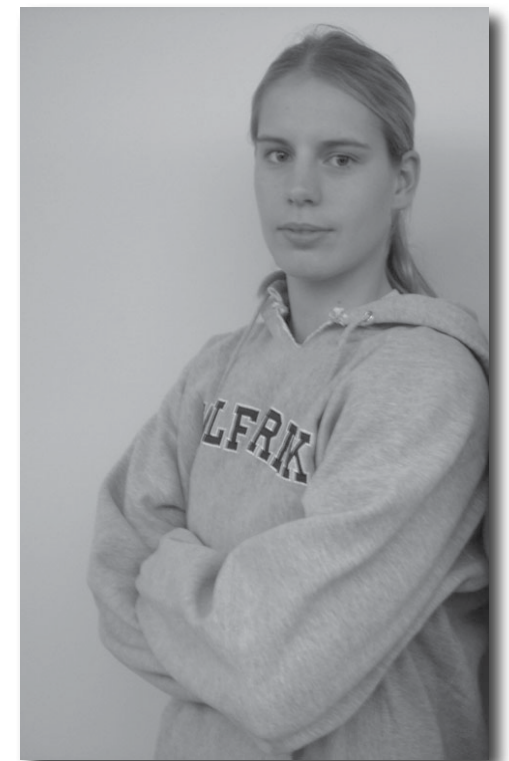
Is it not true that transsexuals are getting these operations to feel "one" with his or her psychological impulses? So, how can we punish, discriminate against, ridicule the very people who are just using everybody else as role models. Transsexuals wish to be "normal" and not have homosexual thoughts, and they are convinced that masculinity and femininity are of equal importance as gender. Sherry L Colb believes that the only justification is to allow transsexuals to sue their employers for discrimination. It is so true, in turn, because without effort our society judges, discriminates against, and disconnects from transsexuals simply because they are "different."

Now, maybe through the privilege to compete the Olympic Games justice will be sought, maybe not? Who are we to decide what justice is? If I wear big red shiny boots, have long hair, or extravagant earrings, my promotions should not be halted simply because my boss doesn't like it. It shouldn't be an issue at work, is Sherry's main point. On the other hand, discrimination is far from a standstill, because not only will people like Fred Phelps continue to believe that "all gays are going to hell," but some believe all transsexuals are never going to be the opposite sex, no matter what restroom he or she uses.

This brings me to one solid thought that this group's portrayal has simply led to further discrimination. Personally, my heart goes out to those who are not as treated as equals, which is why there is only one thing to do, pray. Pray for God to right the wrongs in this world, if you believe in God. It doesn't exactly matter how those wrongs are fixed, but if allowing transsexuals to compete in the Olympic Games, then I'm all for justice.

Female Areolas have been discriminated against for decades begin kept under wraps while male Areolas are free to viewed by the public any time. Some argue that female Areolas must remain enslaved in order to preserve the innocence of children. This hardly seems likely considering children see female Areolas in the home on a regular basis often from birth. It is clear that required covering female Areolas stems from an unjust patriarchal society that believes female Areolas are somehow less respectable than male Areolas. Allowing female Areolas to be free in society will not cause males to harbor negative feelings toward all women,

## SHE SAID...



CAITLIN STEPHENSON

but rather it will encourage equality in society. In some cases female and male Areolas look quite similar, making it difficult to prove that exposure to one as opposed to the other will have a dire effect on society. Female Areolas have been accused of starting riots, but it is hard to imagine that the mere sighting of female Areolas could send an entire society into chaos. Furthermore, there have been innumerable incidents when the sighting of female Areolas has not caused rioting, which gives little validity to the idea that female Areolas are a danger to society. For these reasons, it is time to free the female Areolas and give them the same rights as male Areolas.



In America we have a long tradition of keeping female Areoles enslaved for both the sake of the children and for the common good. While there is inequality within the law because male and children Areoles can roam free, keeping the mature female Areoles locked away is both proper and moral. One argument is that improper exposure to female Areoles may cause heightened sexual responses from males which in turn may cause men to

JOSH LODEN



...HE  
SAID

harbor negative feelings towards women. After negative feelings emerge, males may learn to see all women and not just the female Areoles as worthy of enslavement. Children are especially susceptible to the dangers of free female Areoles as such a drastic display is not proper for children under the age of ten to witness. The reason for this is to keep the child's mind focused and to not place images within the child's mind that may negatively twist his or her mind into thoughts that should be reserved for married couples within the privacy of their own home. Thus, female Areoles should stay enslaved and bound until the female Areoles has gone through the marriage ceremony at which time they should only reveal themselves in the privacy

# Commentary

## Reputation Commentary

By David Wilson

An infant joining the world is as true in conduct as its cries are honest, save only to have a name, bearing with it all the sins of the family's past, seared on its nature months before words ever escape the mouth.

Reputation flawlessly describes a man or woman without regard for truth, based grandly on the ill chosen, alleged actions of man. The desire for an admirable acknowledged reputation will forever be the drive of many, yet so few will ever attain it. Its difficulty impossible it would seem to actualize, yet who has achieved this level of decency? Certainly I fall short.

So many have voiced a surmise to look inward at the character, to judge of themselves, as this is the true nature of us all. Yet, as a child is given a name it is also given a life, and what is done throughout that life creates a reputation. Can it not be said that Abraham Lincoln was a reputable man? (He earned this title through his actions.) Specifically, Lincoln's conclusion towards reputation is characterized through quote, "Character is like a tree and reputation its shadow. The shadow is what we think it is; the tree is the real thing." Even a man of Lincoln's ethical standing does not dwell on reputation or grant its legitimacy.

Then why do the rest of us take such care of the light in which others

see us? A hard question indeed, but not unanswerable, and in others we often are corrupted by their actions labeled bad. As Francis Jeffery expressed, "Good will, like a good name, is got by many actions and lost by one." Perfect is the description and equal is its goal, because throughout life not one soul is immune to mistakes. In fact, I have over-achieved in this category, just ask my mother...she may just tell you even if you don't ask! One can do so many unnoticed good deeds and be known only for the lowest time in life when they were caught out of character. Now, the answer to our question lies with our goals in life, because we very well may exist in our mind among our thoughts as good and decent, but it is only what others see that can be acknowledged.

Point proven, the Duke Lacrosse players, entire lives' were put on hold for 13 months, because of one night's events. To be admitted to a school such as Duke University, one must be of high intelligence. However, in one evening they put their morals/intelligence in the back seat and acted out of character by acquiring the services of a stripper (not uncommon around universities for young men and women). They put themselves in a situation and they will spend the rest of their lives striving for a noble reputation that may never come, but it is that pursuit which makes a good person reputable.

For as long back as my slowing memory will allow, a voice is present stating, "you were given a name, it is a great name, it holds no blemishes, skeletons, or ill associations, it is your duty to keep it that way." That is the voice of my grandmother, who unlike the masses only sees the good of my path through life, and dismisses the bad as easily as the rest embrace and publicize it. We must all seek to accept the bad as we can learn from it, but shout out with joy and happiness when those around us experience "good" and in return they shall do the same for us, as we must all have compassion.

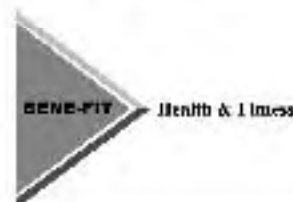
So who is right? Lincoln, who believed that what we think and feel of ourselves defines our character, or is it Jeffery, believing that no matter how many good deeds we do we only need endure one mistake to be in ruin forever. The answer is in our thoughts and I see this on Campus as students pause at doorways pondering whether to hold the door for the next student 20 feet away. It is at vending machines where students readily loan dollars to a hungry classmate. It exists in the small "good" acts that even those on the giving end too easily forget. Final answer is that everyone must do more than think the "good" deeds, but rather act on them and the reputation will follow accordingly.

## Need a Good Kick?



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# Response to Tragedy: Two Voices

Avila friends,

Yesterday our consciousness was disturbed by the horrific violence and killings in Virginia. When I was first informed of the killings my heart dropped and it was immediately evident to me that we are all one as this human tragedy touched my soul immediately and deeply. The first question I find people asking is why. In this particular situation we have few answers but in past tragedies with similar circumstances we have encountered a deep rage. Many will ask—where does such anger come from. I believe the answer lies within each of us. We must ask ourselves when we feel injustice, what do we do with our anger? Do we take our anger, which comes from pain and grief, and do we let it over take us. Literally does it become something that possesses us? All too often, even inside of people who do not eventually act out in such a way, I see that our anger remains. I see it in me. Our anger isn't typically manifested as it was yesterday but it still can be destructive.

So if we are to understand violence from others we must first understand it in ourselves. When we take our violence, our anger, and if we simply let this pain fester within us then we will use it at some point to bring violence into our world. Maybe that violence will manifest itself through hurtful language or maybe through property destruction or even physical harm. But the truth is that if we don't become aware, recognize and understand our pain, anger and violence and transform it then we will transfer it. This is true for everyone. If we do not free ourselves from our own hurts then we will transfer those hurts in some form to another. This is why, in the scriptures,

Jesus calls us to love our enemies. If we don't take the pain inflicted by others and transform it—then our anger overtakes us and we become what we hate. We then project that violence on to others and it continues. In effect, if we don't transform our violence then violence will transform us and the result is uncontrolled rage. Indeed if we weep today, it is not just for the victims and their families and friends but it is because once again violence won the day.

Today, many of us feel a deep sense of pain and grief because of what happened yesterday. This is a time to grieve and to feel the pain and suffering of this violence. Let us keep in mind as we do the ongoing tragedy that many more die every day from violence throughout our world. The violence of hunger alone causes 30,000 deaths per day. If this incident in Virginia stirs us to ponder the question why, then let us use the opportunity to reflect seriously on the issue. This tragic event, as I said at the beginning, has raised our consciousness to the violence and tragedies that constantly happen around us and around our world. Let's use this time for good and seek answers within our own being. If we do not then violence will continue to spiral out of control. Gandhi said that the transformation of the world begins with the transformation of ourselves. To use this time for the better then let us transform our own lives. What better time to start than now?

Please know that our chapel is open from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and anyone is welcome to come and pray, reflect or just sit.

Peace,  
Dave Armstrong  
Campus Minister

As the Avila community joined in mourning for those lost in the Virginia Tech tragedy, we are reminded that in times of crisis each person manages their emotions in a different fashion. As the events related to this tragedy continue to unfold, we would like to take a moment to remind you of resources that may be helpful to you as you process your feelings around this and other life crises.

You may find it comforting to process your thoughts and emotions through a variety of venues, such as reflective prayer; conversations with friends, family, and trusted colleagues; journal, poetry, or reflective writings; or meeting with a counselor or spiritual advisor.

In addition to the many faculty, staff, and administration at Avila University that are able to lend a listening ear, there are additional services available to assist you in this time of crisis.

\* Counseling Services are available in Hodes 722 at no charge. For an appointment with a counselor contact Stana Eager at 816-501-3767.

\* The Chapel is open for individual prayer and quiet reflection daily from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 p. m. Dave Armstrong, Director of Campus Ministry is also available for individual meetings, he may be contacted at 816-501-2423.

\* Public Safety is always available to respond to student concerns. They encourage you to report suspicious behavior on-campus and call for a campus escort if you feel uncomfortable while on campus. Public Safety may be reached at 816-985-6079.

As a community we understand that part of the concern you may have regarding the Virginia Tech tragedy is the Avila community readiness for crisis situations. Avila University has in place Emergency Preparedness Procedures that include guidelines for various situations, including hostage or intruder violence. Part of the preparedness procedures includes the identification of "first responders" for each building on campus to assist with locking down or evacuating facilities as necessary. At the start of the current academic year a group of campus personnel began reviewing the existing procedures for updating, reviewing the list of first responders for accuracy, and finalizing the training protocols for first responders. This is a perpetual process of review and change, but additional factors will be considered to address challenges identified through this most recent crisis.

As a community of caring individuals committed to the worth, dignity, and potential of each human being, the safety and well-being of each member of our community is always a top priority. As we continue to mourn for the loss of our colleagues in the higher education community, we will use this moment to strengthen our preparedness protocols.

With prayers for Peace,

Alicia L. Murillo,  
Interim Vice President & Dean for Student Affairs



# VIRGINIA TECH: A REACTION

The deadliest shooting in U.S. history left thirty-three people dead. When I first heard of the shooting I didn't know what to think. I was honestly sick to my stomach that someone could be so selfish. We all ask ourselves why this happened or how it happened? We can all say "what if" or "they should of," but unfortunately that doesn't take back time.

**By  
Kayle  
Walker**

I still remember coming home from school and seeing TV coverage on Columbine. An act so disgusting that we all hoped we would never see something like this again. The Virginia Tech shooting had almost three times as many casualties than Columbine. THREE TIMES!

As the events were unfolding and more deaths were being reported I thought

campus police, etc. It's easy to blame others through a tragedy because people get scared, but it does question my own safety

Here at Avila we only have two or three public safety officers. The campus is small and well lit, but late at night it's practically empty. There isn't one single emergency phone on campus. We can all hope we're safe and we can even make changes to make our environment a safer place, but there are some things we just can't help. How can anyone prepare for something like this? I typically don't roll out of bed and wonder if I am going to get shot today, but you honestly never know with all the hateful people running around this world.

Over Easter break I started reading a book called "Nineteen Minutes" by Jodi Picoult. It's about a high school shooting and it starts out saying, "In nineteen



about my little brother sitting in a high school classroom. I thought about all the changes the school had made to make the school a safer place. How I thought they were silly but obviously needed.

I thought about my older brother at Colorado State University. Which two days after the tragedy, police arrested a local man who wasn't a student for suspicious activity. At 4:04 AM the man was on the roof of the residence halls. He didn't have any weapons and fortunately no one was hurt.

I also thought about his graduation that is less than a month away. A graduation that some students from Virginia Tech will never get.

I then thought about my own safety on Avila's campus. Through the Virginia Tech disaster people have been pointing fingers at VT's administration, at their

minutes you can mow the front lawn, color your hair, watch a third of a hockey game." We typically don't think that in those same nineteen minutes a life or lives can be taken. Sometimes we take things for granted, including our safety.

It's unfair that one man's hate took so many victims with him to his grave. I wish I could take back time, I wish I had words to comfort those in pain, I wish I could just ask the gunman why, but I can't. I can pray though. I can pray for the families and friends of the victims, I can pray for my own safety, I can even pray for the shooter. We can also learn from this. Learn that acts of hate can't be solved with more hate, that there comes a time to mourn and a time to forgive. This tragedy won't break us as a nation, but rather build us as a nation.

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## Eyes Wide Open

By Emilie Brumit

On Wednesday, March 21st, Avila welcomed the Eyes Wide Open Exhibit to the Marian Center. Eyes Wide Open is a national exhibit that serves to send a strong and lasting message about the human costs of war. The exhibit featured in the Alumni Lounge was created by the Kansas City American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), and the Kansas City Iraq Task Force.

The exhibit focused on both the human and economic impact of the Iraq war on Kansas and Missouri. Symbolizing the human cost of war, the exhibit featured 90 pairs of boots representing the soldiers from both states that had been killed in Iraq at the time. The exhibit contained 50 pairs of civilian shoes representing Iraqis killed in the war.

Four two-foot by three-foot displays listed the actual costs in dollars for all major cities in both Kansas and Missouri. The amount of tax

dollars in both states totaled in the billions. Included were eight two-foot by three-foot signs that offered images of Iraqi civilians and also gave information on the impact of the war in Iraq on its people.

Several students and faculty members attended and participated in the lecture offered along with the exhibit. Ira Harritt, the leader of the Kansas City AFSC, offered insight into and statistics on the actual dealings of the Iraq War. In an informative and touching speech, Mr. Harritt conveyed the emotion behind the numbers.

The exhibit was intended to promote awareness on campus of the true costs of the Iraq War. Eyes Wide Open encouraged discussions among students and inspired some to get involved. Hopefully, Avila University will continue to support and promote such events.

## Imus No Longer in the Morning

Political correctness has been taken to a new level. Don Imus found this out on April 11 when he directed the comment "nappy headed ho's" at the Rutgers women's basketball team. His remarks sparked a huge national debate about what is considered freedom of speech and what is not appropriate when talking over the air waves.

**By:  
Brindy  
Lasiter**

Proponents of freedom of speech argued that Imus had every right to express his opinion. Imus has been on the radio for 30 years where he is known as a "shock jock". Like Howard Stern, Imus was knowingly been hired by CBS for his insulting and rude comments. People regularly tune in with the expectation that he will be offensive and distasteful. Imus had a loyal audience and has gained a great deal of publicity for the station.

Imus, with his demeaning comment, crossed the line between what is culturally acceptable in society and what is not. His

freedom to say whatever he wishes has been called into question by many. For example civil rights leaders such as Rev. Jesse Jackson and Rev. Al Sharpton have lead the fight for change in social norms with regard to racism and sexism. Also, they both argued that when black women make outstanding accomplishments they should be commended for their accomplishment rather than degraded. This is particularly true because the medium that Imus used for his insensitive expressions was national radio and television.

After the nation was infuriated by Imus's statement, corporations like Proctor and Gamble and Staples began to pull their advertising from the show. CBS was forced to take Imus off of the air. Subsequently, Imus was fired. Some people believe that Imus should not have been terminated. The argument for leaving Imus on the air was that his derogatory comments were minor in comparison to the lyrics of rap musicians. The words in rap music are repulsive and cause much more damage to black women's self esteem than anything Imus had to say.

## HPV Vaccine

By Stephanie Williamson, L.P.N.

June 2006 the Food and Drug Administration licensed the first vaccine to prevent cervical cancer caused by the Human Papilloma Virus. Human Papilloma Virus or HPV is a sexually transmitted disease that can cause cervical cancer. The vaccine is recommended for women ages 9-26. The specific age recommendation is based upon studies. This vaccine has only been studied on women of this age group and also women that have not yet been exposed to any of the four types of HPV. The different types have been classified as "high risk" and "low risk". The "high risk" types are the ones that may lead to cervical cancer. The "low risk" types are the ones that cause genital warts. After an abnormal pap smear that shows HPV positive the next step is a colposcopy. A colposcopy is an exam in which a doctor can determine if there is cancer or if the abnormalities found can be treated with simple antibiotics. At this visit your doctor will recommend this vaccine. It is a series of three. The first, then one month later, the last one is given six months after the first. HPV does not have signs or symptoms therefore can be spread from person to person without being aware of it. This is one reason to consider getting immunized. Currently about

20 million people are infected with the Human Papilloma Virus. It is now the most common sexually transmitted disease in the United States. All 20 million people are not just women. Men can get HPV too, but, it will not lead to cancer. Only a few men can develop health problems following HPV exposure. Many states are considering making this vaccine required to all girls before they start sixth grade, consequently, it has become a topic of controversy among church leaders, doctors and the state legislatures. Church leaders believe the vaccine will unprotected sexual conduct among teenage girls. On the other hand, physicians argue that this vaccine helps protect the lives of young women who all too often engage in sexual activity without protection anyway. They believe that education is a key factor in countering the messages young people already receive about sex through entertainment networks and advertising. For those of you that decide to get the vaccine you should still use protection during sexual contact. Lastly, remember that although this vaccine could be a life saver, it does not protect against all types of HPV and other sexually transmitted diseases.





# THE ANATOMY OF A SPRING FLING

By L. Whitney Beiler

Did you get a load of that Spring Fling carnival? So much activity, you bet I climbed that rock wall and fished in the pond. But, now that spring is finally evident I think I shall address the seasonal relationship also known as a "spring fling". This human mating custom seems to befall us all at some point in our lives, but what causes it? Does the let down of first semester leave you with a surplus of energy that gets thrown into looking for love? Is it the sweet smell of blooming flowers blowing in the breeze that is so alluring? How about the lovely sunshine radiating off our skin and warming people enough to start wearing less clothing? Or is it meteorological? Is the moon's rotational pull pulling people towards each other at an alarming rate? Only time will tell as the world turns with passions, until you get sent to the General Hospital.

I think what initially distinguishes a spring fling from any other short lived tryst is the time frame. It conveniently falls

after midterms and before the stressful on set of finals. Both parties are well aware of the impending separation that usually comes with the summer, therefore providing a peaceful out. Simply blaming it on the geographic distance allows the two to wipe their hands clean and start the summer blissfully single.

But the beauty of a spring fling is in having it, regardless of the cause. There is something poetic in the time line set forth through nature and the ease in which it occurs. So the Spring Fling carnival is not all that different from a spring fling relationship. Keep climbing and fishing. You can always throw back the bass, but those catfish are fun to reel. You've got your pick of booths with their games. Oddly enough we are all drawn to the ones giving things away. Sadly, our love of free stuff has transcended into our relationships, but I digress. Maybe you'll see an article about that, if people ever allow me to speak to the masses again.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to the Talon's very own Chadd Rivera. Chadd won Second and Third Place in the 'Editorial Cartoon' Category at the Missouri College Media Association's Annual Conference. The conference took place at Lodge of the Four Seasons on Lake of the Ozarks. They presented Chadd's award during a semi-formal banquet ceremony at the close of the conference.

Another congratulations is extended to the Talon team that brought you the controversial 'Unzipped' issue of the Talon last year. They won the Honorable Mention award in the 'Best Front Page' category. The award was for the entire group of covers surrounding the 'Unzipped' issue. The other covers included the 'Zipped Pants', 'Back Pocket of Pants with Avila Mission Statement', and the 'Shhh...' covers.



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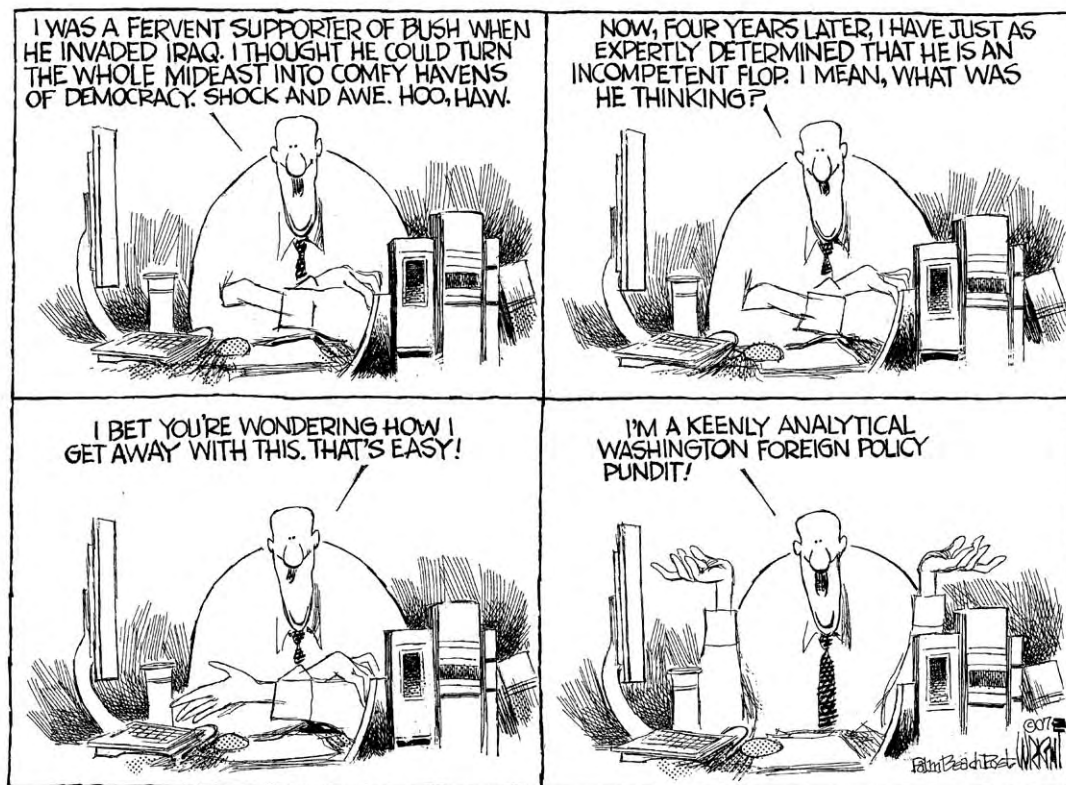
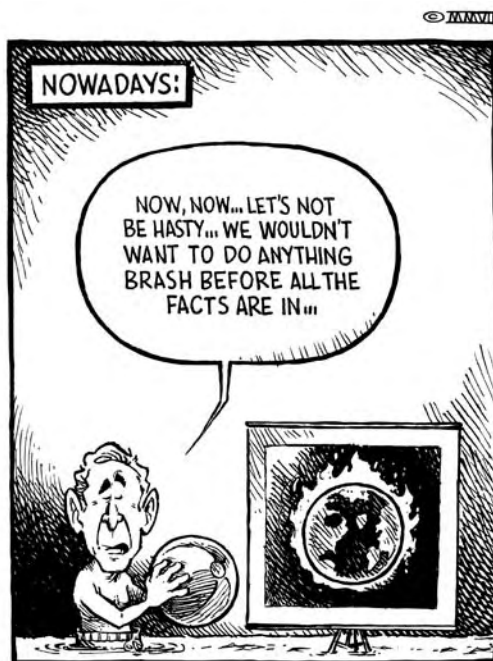
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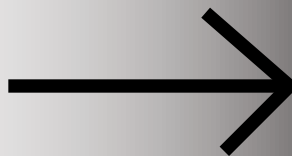
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 –Ron Slepitz, President, Avila University

